

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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S E C R E T MANAGUA 4303

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT,NU
SUBJECT: EMILIO ALVAREZ ON COSTA RICAN MEDIATION

SUMMARY: CONSERVATIVE ALVAREZ WILL LEND HIS SUPPORT TO CARAZO
MEDIATION INITIATIVE ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVES IT IS DOOMED TO FAILURE.
HE FEELS IT NECESSARY TO GET THIS INITIATIVE OUT OF THE WAY SO
THAT "PLAN B", I.E., FORCING SOMOZA'S RESIGNATION AND ESTABLISH-
MENT OF A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, CAN BE ADDRESSED. FOR ALVAREZ,
NOTHING OTHER THAN A SPIRAL TOWARD A BLOODBATH CAN BE
AVOIDED, UNLESS THE US STOPS THINKING IN TERMS OF DEALING
WITH SOMOZA IN POWER AND BEGINS TO THINK ABOUT SUPPORTING
OPPOSITION EFFORTS TO GET HIM OUT OF POWER. END SUMMARY.

1 AMB AND POLOFF SPOKE ON SEPTEMBER 11 WITH EMILIO
ALVAREX MONTALVAN, LEADER OF "AUTHENTIC" PCN FACTION AND
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LEADING PCN INTELLECTUAL. EMBOFFS EXPLAINED USG
POSITION ON CARAZO MEDIATION AND OUR HOPES OPPOSITION WOULD
REACT IN A FASHION WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE INITIATIVE
TO PROSPER. ALVAREZ READILY AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE
GIVEN A GOOD RECEPTION SAYING THE CHURCH MUST TAKE
THE LEAD AND THEN THE BROAD OPPOSITION FRONT (FAO)
COULD FOLLOW SUTI. HE WENT ON TO SAY HE EXPECTS THE

INITIATIVE TO FAIL BECAUSE THE CURRENT POLARIZATION WOULD PREVENT ANY COMPROMISE WHICH ALLOWED SOMOZA TO MAINTAIN POWER AND SOMOZA WOULD NOT RESIGN UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.

2. ALVAREZ EXPLAINED THAT SUPPORT FOR MEDIATION SHOULD BE PRAGMATIC: WHEN THE INITIATIVE FAILED, THE FIELD WOULD THEN BE CLEARED TO MOVE ON TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "PLAN B" WHICH IS BASED ON THE FORCED OUSTER OF SOMOZA AND A TRANSITIONAL ROLE. ALVAREZ EXPLAINED HIS HYPOTHESES WERE (A) THAT THE OPPOSITION IS NOT READY TO ASSUME POWER NOW, BUT, (B) IF SOMOZA REMAINS IN POWER, THERE WILL BE STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD A BLOODBATH. THEREFORE, HE FORESEES THE NEED FOR A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH HE HAS OUTLINE AND WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY.

3. ALVAREZ SAID VENEZUELA HAS CLEARLY LINED ITSELF WITH THE OPPOSITION THROUGH ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND PUBLIC ACTIVITIES. HE SAID IF THE BLOODBATH IS TO BE

AVERTED, THE US MUST DO THE SAME. ALVAREZ EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THE AMB'S ASSERTION THAT THE US AND VENEZUELA WERE WORKING IN TANDEM ON THE MEDIATION INITIATIVE.

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4. UNRELATED TO THE MEDIATION INITIATIVE, ALVAREZ SAID THE CURRENT INSURRECTIONARY ACTIVITIES HAD TAKEN A NEW TURN. HE SAID THAT SUPPORTERS OF ALFONSO ROBELO (MDN) (MOSTLY A BUSINESSMEN ORGANIZATION) WERE PARTICIPATING WITH THE FSLN IN THE ARMED ATTACKS AGAINST THE GN. HE FURTHER SAID THAT UDEL PRESIDENT, CORDOVA RIVAS, WAS INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF THE SPT. 9 AND 10 ATTACKES. ALVAREZ SAID HE WAS APPROACHED BY ONE OF ROBELO'S SUPPORTERS TO FIND OUT IF HE WOULD OFFER MEDICAL SERVICE FOR THE INSURGENTS BUT REFUSED SAYING THAT HE WAS AGAINST A VIOLENT SOLUTION. ALVAREZ CITED THIS INFORMATION AS AN INDICATION THAT PERSONS WHO BELIEVE IN DOMOCRACY ARE NOW BEING ENLISTED INTO SUPPORTING AND PARTICIPATING IN REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE. SOLAUN

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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